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UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

P. O. Box 3243

Telephone: 5517 700

Fax: 5517844

Website: www.Africa-union.org

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**PROGRESS REPORT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE PAN AFRICAN INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (PAIPO)**

PROGRESS REPORT ON PAIPO

1. The African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government took a decision Assembly/AU/Dec.138 (VIII) in January 2007, to establish a single Pan-African Intellectual Property Organization (PAIPO). The decision further requests the Commission to consult and to coordinate with the (RECs), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), African Intellectual Property Organization (AIPO) and African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) on the establishment of a single Pan-African Intellectual Property Organization (PAIPO).
2. Since this Summit decision the Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology (HRST) has embarked on several activities to facilitate the establishment of this continental structure. PAIPO will serve as the political and diplomatic arm of Africa's regional Intellectual Property (IP) institutions, protecting Africa's interests against biopiracy, intellectual property rights, etc. Indeed, issues of policy nature that Organisation Africaine de la Propriété Intellectuelle (OAPI) and African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) would wish to see advanced will be championed by PAIPO. It will also promote, facilitate, enhance and strengthen the processes of harmonization on matters requiring continental direction. In particular, the realization of goals to reducing poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and the AU Vision requires enhanced political support as IP instruments are mobilized to those ends.
3. As a first step, the Department has appointed the Science and Technology Research Commission (STRC) office as a focal point for all PAIPO matters since then the establishment of the PAIPO been incorporated into the STRC mandate. As a result of that the STRC take the following actions.
 - a) Brainstorming High-Level Round Table meeting with the key stakeholders, ARIPO and OAPI, and with several other representatives from countries who are non-members of either, was organized at the AUC Headquarter, 7th – 8th June 2008. It was agreed the Commission to hire a consultant to produce a draft Constitutive Articles of PAIPO and situational analysis of intellectual property in Africa.
 - b) A consultancy team representing the African 5 regions was appointed by the commission to draft the Constitutive Articles of PAIPO and to conduct situational analysis on the intellectual property affairs in Africa. A meeting was conducted with the consultancy team to brainstorm on the general guidelines, 8th – 9th September 2008.
 - c) In mid November 2008, African experts on IP issues were called for a meeting at the AUC Headquarter to discuss the draft Constitutive Act of PAIPO. The meeting recommended the Commission to present the Act to the AMCOST Bureau for consideration.
 - d) In December 2008, the Draft Constitutive Act of PAIPO was presented to the 2nd meeting of the AMCOST III Bureau where the Bureau commended the progress made by the AUC/HRST on the establishment of the PAIPO and resolves the following:
 - The AUC/HRST to carry out more consultations with the legal Council and to revisit the governance structure specified in the draft PAIPO Constitutive Act with the view to coming up with a more rationale and sustainable structure.

- The Members of the Steering Committee were encouraged to improve the draft Constitutive act by providing comments to the AUC/HRST Secretariat within a period of one month.
4. The Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology prepared the book of lighthouse projects to guide the Implementation of the Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action and to transform this Plan of Action from a policy document into programmes and projects that can be funded and/or mobilize resources for. PAIPO was introduced to the book to foster its implementation as well. The book was endorsed by the AMCOST Bureau in its second meeting where Member States were requested to champion its implementation.
 5. Way forward
 - a) The Department will organize a senior expert meeting from the Member States representing the IP sector and other Stakeholders that include ARIPO, OAPI, WIPO and other key stakeholders.
 - b) Finalization of the Constitutive Act and the project document on PAIPO to be presented to the July 2009 Summit.

2008

Progress report on the establishment of the Pan African intellectual property organization (PAIPO)

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